

Wingspan

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Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

Thursday • February 5, 2004

HM-15 Blackhawks participate in GOMEX 04-1

By Lt. j.g. Jim Schwarze
HM-15 PAO

The Blackhawks of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fifteen (HM-15) participated in GOMEX 04-1, a mine countermeasures (MCM) exercise held off the coast of Panama City Beach, Fla., from Dec. 4-15, 2003. HM-15 provided the Airborne Mine Countermeasures (AMCM) capability piece of the MCM triad led by Commander, Mine Countermeasures Squadron Two. GOMEX 04-1 was the first opportunity for AMCM, Surface Mine Countermeasures, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) assets to operate with the USS Wasp (LHD 1) Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG). The ESG conducted mock amphibious operations against a foreign adversary, while all participating MCM units focused on mine hunting and mine clearance of an Amphibious Operating Area (AOA) during the scenario-based exercise.

This year's exercise included five MCM ships and two EOD units from Ingleside, Texas, as well as four MH-53E Sea Dragon helicopters and associated mine hunting and minesweeping equipment from HM-15. AMCM operations were conducted from Dec. 6-12 and included execution of MK-103 mechanical mine sweeping (with live explosive cutters), MK-104 acoustic mine sweeping and AN/AQS-14A side scan sonar mine hunting missions. Despite a higher than normal operational tempo, the Blackhawks of HM-15 superbly employed their weapons systems throughout the exercise. At the end operations HM-15 had searched or swept over 548 linear miles of the AOA, ensuring unfettered access to the area for follow-on ESG amphibious operations. The highlight of the exercise occurred when HM-15 quickly located four exercise mines that had been covertly planted by opposing forces in the vicinity of the USS Wasp. Throughout the exercise HM-15 was able to meet all AMCM tasking despite heavy wind and sea conditions, which hampered other MCM operations.

The Blackhawks of HM-15 also provided logistics support for the ESG by transporting flag officers from both the Air Force and Navy and local dignitaries during ship visits from Dec. 13-15. Aircrews also accomplished unit level training by performing day and night deck landings on USS Shreveport (LPD 12), USS Wasp (LHD 1) and USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) on Dec. 13 and 14. Twenty pilots received qualifications or renewed their currency. HM-15 flew a total of 177 flight hours, completed 42 missions and achieved 25 aircrew sign-offs during the 12 days of the exercise.

The Blackhawks are proud of their performance and participation in the highly successful GOMEX 04-1 fleet exercise. The ability of HM-15 to rapidly detect and counter all threat exercise mines during the exercise reinforced the importance of maintaining a robust dedicated AMCM capability to meet he current global mine threat.



Secretary of the Navy visits South Texas



The Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Gordon England (right), visited bases in South Texas on Jan. 14 at the invitation of Senator John Cornyn (middle).

Of the visit, Senator Cornyn said, "We wanted to invite him back to Corpus Christi to take a look again at what's happened at the Naval Air Station to see what an important contribution these bases make to our overall level of preparation and war fighting effort. So far I can say that we have had a great presentation and a great visit."

Congressman Solomon Ortiz (left) also accompanied the tour and said that while the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is pending in 2005, he feels confident in the mission of the military in South Texas. "In my opinion we are pretty safe, but that doesn't mean that we are going to stop now; we are going to work very hard," he said.

February is National African-American History Month

February marks the 78th annual observance of African-American history month. This year's theme is "Brown vs. Board of Education (50th anniversary)."

African-Americans have made extraordinary contributions to the Navy throughout its history. From Chief Gunner's Mate John Henry "Dick" Turpin, the first African-American chief petty officer, and a survivor of the explosion aboard USS Maine, to Harriet Ida Pickens and Frances Wills, the first African-American women naval officers.

These proud warriors served on the front lines of freedom, bringing talent, dedication, and innovative ideas to the fight.

They still do. Today, there are more than 75,000 African-Americans on active duty in the Navy, with thousands more serving proudly in the naval reserves. They work, train, lead, and contribute every day in the finest tradition of the heroes who preceded them. Indeed, they are writing new history.

During the past year, a number of exceptional African-American Sailors and civilians were recognized for outstanding service to country and community. YNC(SW) Hazel M. Hudson received the Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); Mr. Larry Hollingsworth was selected by the Black Engineer of the Year organization for the Professional Achievement in Industry or Government award; and Rear Adm. Melvin G. Williams won the National Society of Black Engineers' Golden Torch Award for lifetime achievement in government.

We salute and congratulate these individuals, but we also recognize that they represent the high ideals, the selflessness, and the proud service of all African-American -- indeed all American -- Sailors.

Wingspan

From the Skipper

Take charge of your career

by Capt. Paula Hinger



Hinger

As many of you know, the Chief of Naval Operations paid Navy Region South a two-day visit just a few weeks ago. The purpose of his visit was to talk about his vision for the future, how the Navy manages resources and how we're going to make the Navy better.

The Navy is currently experiencing dynamic changes in its manpower distribution and career management, which means that all personnel must become more proactive in the way they plan their career. In order for these major changes to be effectively implemented we must have the support mechanisms in place to provide the tools required to facilitate change.

We have seen many subtle and some not so subtle changes over the past few years. The first was the development of the Job Advertising Selection System (JASS), a means for individuals to become more proactive in the selection of their next duty assignment. JASS is also a means of getting the right person, with the proper qualifications, on time to the gaining command, which is critical to the success of every command's mission.

The most dramatic change of late was the reduction in high year tenure for first and third class petty officers. This adjustment was necessary to ensure enlisted communities maintain a vibrant career progression and advancement opportunities, while providing the correct manpower to the fleet and helping the Navy shape the force of the future.

The Navy's most recent initiative, the Sea Warrior career management program,

requires service members to become more proactive in their career management. Sea Warrior puts the power of choice into the hands of the individual, giving them responsibility for their growth and development and allowing them to select the direction they want to go.

No longer will it be acceptable to start planning your next career move nine months prior to your projected rotation date. You will have to plan well in advance in order to advance in rank and have options for your future. The Navy has developed many tools and programs to assist members in the development of a career plan. The Navy Knowledge Online web page (www.nko.navy.mil) is the cornerstone of these programs. NKO is a web-based information distribution system that can be customized to the user's needs to create a "personal web page" with all the information required to make informed decisions. NKO also has the

From the Skipper continued on page 5

Chaplain's Corner

Believing in each other

By Chaplain Jairo Moreno

The Gospel of John 13:34-35 said: "A new commitment I give to you. That you love one another as I loved you, that ye also love one another (v. 35). By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one another."

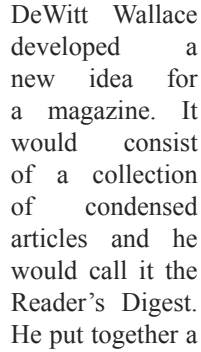
What is love? John said, "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10)

God is the source of love and also the perfect example of what love is. His love is sacrificial. The gift of His life is a reminder of this.

God's love is also unconditional. You never have to worry about it diminishing. It is not dependent on our worthiness to receive it, for no one deserves God's love - and yet he loves everyone.

All of this sounds wonderful and is also a tremendous and powerful message for us to listen to but if we do not believe, it has no transcendent effect on us. We need to have the ingredients we have to believe. The same applies to everything in life, like our relationships: if you do not believe in each other your relationship will not go too far.

I found a story in a book "Stories for the heart" that happens in the lives of DeWitt Wallace and Lila Bell Acheson. In 1910



Moreno

DeWitt Wallace developed a new idea for a magazine. It would consist of a collection of condensed articles and he would call it the Reader's Digest. He put together a proposed sample and sent it to publishers throughout the country. Nobody seemed interested; DeWitt was terribly discouraged.

From the Chaplain continued on page 5

Healthwatch

The eyes have it

By Lt. Nate Rutting



Rutting

Of our five senses, our sense of vision is probably the one that is most taken for granted. Have you ever thought of what the impact of losing your sight might be? There are many diseases associated with the eyes, and glaucoma is one that is often overlooked.

Just what exactly is glaucoma? Glaucoma is a serious disease of the optic nerve. There are two main types of glaucoma, chronic closed angle glaucoma and acute open angle glaucoma.

Closed angle glaucoma happens mostly to young or middle-aged adults. It occurs suddenly and intensely in one eye. Pain in the affected eye and/or the eyebrow area is often severe and the eye usually will become "bloodshot." Individuals experiencing acute closed angle glaucoma describe the feeling as their eye "wanting to burst." Associated nausea and vomiting are common. People of Asian and African descent are more likely to get acute closed angle glaucoma. Being extremely farsighted predisposes an individual to acute glaucoma and there is a much higher incidence in women than in men. Darkness, emotional stress or an injury to the eye all can precipitate acute closed angle glaucoma. This is an emergency situation in which every minute counts. Go immediately to the nearest hospital emergency room if you,

or someone you know, are experiencing any of these symptoms.

Primary open angle glaucoma is a chronic disease. It is insidious, much more common than acute glaucoma, and slowly robs elderly individuals of their vision. Oftentimes, when symptoms are finally noticed and a person seeks medical attention, much damage to the eye has already occurred. Though chronic glaucoma starts in one eye, it usually affects both eyes. There is no pain or redness associated with this form of glaucoma. Symptoms are first usually noticed in dim light. People with chronic glaucoma manifest sensitivity to glare and gradually lose contrast ability and the ability to distinguish shades and brightness. The peripheral vision is affected before central vision. Peripheral vision loss is not always appreciated unless specifically

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Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through
Pride In Performance"

Commanding Officer NAS CC

Capt. Paula Hinger

Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Scott Walters

Editor/Writer

JOC Rita Chadrick

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NAS Corpus Christi February weather outlook

BY AG2 Merody Hulsey
NTMOD

During February the jet stream position shifts from the Mexican border to just north of the local area. Cold fronts pass through the coastal bend area every five to six days, then decrease in frequency near month’s end. Increased low-pressure development in the Gulf of Mexico produces some of the most unpleasant weather experienced at NAS Corpus Christi.

Onshore flow from the Gulf mixes with colder air over land causing damp, dreary weather in the form of drizzle, fog and low clouds. Drizzle accounts for the majority of February’s nearly two inches of precipitation, occurring an average of 14 days during the month. Frequently throughout the month, dense sea fog forms when warmer air moves over cooler water. The average temperature on NAS Corpus Christi increases to 67 degrees Fahrenheit, while the average minimum temperature rises to 53 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures here drop below freezing an average of one day during the month. The predominant wind direction shifts from the North to the Southeast, with a mean wind speed of 11 knots.

Allow extra time for your morning commute and drive carefully as February’s morning fog and drizzle decreases visibility. Point your browsers to <https://www.ntmof.navy.mil> for the latest weather updates as well as plenty of other useful weather information.

For current weather conditions that are updated hourly please call 961-4500.

MWR News and Events

Child Development Home Program (CDH): The Child Development Home Provider Program, headed by Leonora Apiado and Ann Wise, is an excellent program that helps military families meet their obligations by providing quality childcare in a loving home-like environment. The Child Development Home Program prides itself in having the “best of the best” providers in it’s program. The list of CDH providers has 13 on-base homes and four off-base homes to chose from to meet your child- care needs.

For more information concerning the Child Development Home Program or the Child Development Program, please call 961-1165.

Civilian Morale, Welfare and Recreation Activity (CMWRA)

CMWRA 4th Annual Dominoes Tournament: CMWRA is hosting the 4th Annual Dominoes Tournament. This year’s tournament will be held on Thursday, March 11, 2004 at the Gulf Stream Recreation Center at 4 p.m. This long awaited event is absolutely FREE to everyone. Pre-registration is now being held at the CMWRA office located at Bldg. 249. Festivities for this fun-filled evening will include FREE food, door prizes, and a grand prize drawing. To qualify to win the grand prize, please pre-register prior to the day of the event. Don’t wait any longer, register early for a chance to win!

The menu for the event will include “turn & burn your own steak” with all the trimmings. A FREE t-shirt will be given to the first 50 guests, so arrive early and get your very own coveted “4th Annual Dominoes Tourney” t-shirt. Trophies and championship jackets will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams as well as bragging rights for holding the CMWRA Domino Championship Title for 2004! Each team player will receive a set of dominoes just for participating. Volunteer referees are needed for this event; contact Monica Zamorano at 961-3476 if you’re interested.

For more information, call the CMWRA office at 961-3476.

CMWRA Annual Retiree Party: Mama Mia! It’s the time of year again for the annual CMWRA Retiree Party. Come enjoy a little bit of Italy at this year’s grand event to be held on Feb. 27, 2004 at the Gulf Stream Recreation Center from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. This fun time is for all retirees; civilians, military and Winter Texans included. The night’s events will include an Italian menu with all the fixings, live entertainment from Dennis Gilley and the Milestone Band and great door prizes! This night of food, fun and friends is absolutely FREE so mark your calendar and we’ll see you there.

For more information, please call 961-3476.

Corpus Christi Bay Club

Let the Corpus Christi Bay Club help you celebrate Valentine’s Day with a special candlelight dinner on Feb. 14. What better way to say “Happy Valentine’s Day” to your loved one than with a delicious romantic dinner? Dinner starts at 5 p.m. and will

be served until 9:30 p.m.. The buffet will feature fresh garden salad and waldorf salad, chicken marsala, steamship round of beef, Stuffed Salmon, various vegetables, potatoes, rice, New Orleans style bread pudding, apple cobbler, and tea or coffee. The cost for this great dinner is \$15.95 for members and \$16.95 for non-members. Gourmet desserts, wine specials and Irish coffee will also be available at an additional charge. **Reservations are required.**

Specials for February:

Feb 7: Chateaubriand Flambe for two - \$29.95

Feb 21: Stuffed salmon - \$13.95

Feb 28: Flaming kabobs - \$13.95

All the above specials are served along with the a la Carte from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Prices are for club members. An additional \$1 per person is added for non-members. Salad, ice tea or coffee are included with all meals. **Reservations are required for the specials in order to serve you better.**

Special Events for February:

Feb 13 & 20: Winging ceremony will be held in the main ballroom at 3:30 p.m.

Feb 14: Valentine’s Day candlelight dinner from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. **Reservations required.**

Feb 20: Winter Texan’s and Member’s Appreciation Night with all you can eat Shrimp-A-Peel from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$14.95 for members and \$16.95 for non-members.

Feb 6, 13 & 20: All you can eat Shrimp-A-Peel

Feb 27: Mongolian BBQ

Reminder: The club will be **CLOSED** on Feb. 16 in observance of President’s Day.

E-Street Gym:

Winter Racquetball League: Register at Fitness Express before Feb. 6. The \$10 registration fee includes a t-shirt. The league will be played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from February thru April. All players must wear protective eyewear.

Captain’s Cup Volleyball League: Register at the E-Street Gym before Feb. 13. A mandatory captain’s meeting will be held at the gym on Feb. 18 at 5 p.m. The league will begin in March and will be played on Monday thru Thursday evenings.

5K Fun Run: Register at Fitness Express before Feb. 18, 2004. The event will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21 at 0800. Check in for the run is at 7:30 a.m.

Naval Air Station 5K Run Club: The first run of the season will be the “5K Fun Run” on Feb. 21 at 8 a.m. As an incentive, runners completing their first run will receive a 5K Run Club t-shirt. Runners can wear their shirts to other running events to support NAS Corpus Christi.

Captain’s Cup Tennis Singles Tournament: Register at the E-Street Gym before Feb. 27. The tournament will begin in March and end in May. Players will schedule their own matches.

Naval Air Station 5K Run Club Schedule:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
5K Fun Run	Feb. 21
Captain’s Cup 5K Run	March 20
Earth Day 5K	April 17
Summer Starter 5K	June 26
Naval Air Station 5K Run	Aug. 21
Autumn 5K Run	Oct. 23

Sports At A Glance:

<u>Event</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Date</u>
Captain’s Cup Softball League	March 5 at Gym	April-June
Captain’s Cup Soccer League	March 12 at Gym	April-May (Saturdays)
Captain’s Cup 5K Run	March 17 at Gym	March 20
Captain’s Cup Golf League	March 26 at Gym	April-August

For more information call the E-Street Gym at 961-2401.

Fitness Express:

Valentines from one heart to another: What better way to give from the heart than the gift of health? A membership purchased for your loved ones will tell them you care.

Monthly membership fees include unlimited group exercises. Fees are \$15 for DoD/NAF employees, \$25 for other government employees and Navy League members, and \$5 unlimited group exercise for retired military and all dependents. Bring your guests with you for a workout for a \$3 guest fee. A fitness center usage fee will not be charged for active duty, retired or reserve military members and their dependents. Monthly lockers may be rented for \$5 a month for men and \$3 a month for women. Daily lockers are available free of charge. Please bring a lock to secure your locker.

Personal Training: Be sure to sign up for free personal training for all members of the fitness center. A balanced, safe and effective training program is yours for the asking. The program will be individualized to meet your personal goals. Slots fill up quickly, so sign up early and don’t miss out on this awesome member benefit. One-hour assessments are

Station Spotlight



SW1 David Stephens

Material expediter/Hazmat coordinator, Public Works

A native of El Paso, Texas, Stephens has 15 years in the naval service and has been on board NASCC for 20 months. His prior duty stations include the USS Nimitz (CVN 68), USS Cape Cod (AD 43) and shore duty in Gulfport, Miss.

Stephens, whose hobbies include fishing and camping, would eventually like to retire from the service after 20 years, then enter the Merchant Marines or work for OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration).

He is married and has an eight-year-old daughter and five-year-old son.



Dan Cepeda

Tool room attendant, Public Works

Originally from Barrigada, Guam, Cepeda came to NAS Corpus Christi in 1988 as an Interior Communications Electrician and worked at what was then still the brig. He retired from naval service in 1990 and worked at various places before coming back to work at NASCC as a contracted civilian three years ago.

He says that his job as the tool room attendant at Public Works is perfect for him because “I enjoy working alone.”

Cepeda, who likes to play softball during his leisure time, is married and has three grown children, two boys and a girl.

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HOW TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Free Classified AD in Wingspan, for all Military and DoD Personnel (non-commercial ads only) submit via e-mail to: nanrantx@yahoo.com or fax to 361-884-9019 or call 814-0866. Free ads subject to number of words and space limitations.

Paid Classified Ads in Wingspan: 50 cents per word - with a 24 word minimum. Mail your AD copy along with a check payable to D.J. Young Publishing, 145 Naples, Corpus Christi, TX 78404 or call 361-814-0866.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

Large house for rent on Padre Island. 3BR/3BA house on canal. 5 minute walk to Bob Hall Pier and beaches. Over 2200SF, 2 living areas, 2-car garage, 800SF tiled patio, hot tub, boat dock and lift. W/D and fridge included. Pets and kids OK. \$1500.00 deposit, \$2000.00 per month rent plus utilities. Available in early April. 1 or 2 year lease acceptable. (361) 949-1221.

For Sale: Timber-Bilt Pine Bluff Swing Set. Pre-assembled with pre-treated wood and can deliver if needed. Call (361) 937-6817 if interested. Moving, must sell. \$250 OBO.

For sale: Whirlpool Refrigerator. Like new. Frost free. Icemaker. Reversible doors and shelves. 18.1 cu ft. Height 66 in. Width 30 in. Delivery negotiable. \$250. Call 939-9696.

For Sale: 1999 Ford Taurus, very dependable, loaded, immaculate, 126K. \$3800. OBO. 877-7764.

For Sale: 7 pc. Duncan Phyfe Dining Set \$795; Kenmore side by side fridge \$195; 36" Sony Wega Trinitron HDTV Flat Screen \$1300 (paid \$2200) Info: 937-1809.

also free of charge. Flexibility, cardiovascular endurance and strength are tested. Body composition and blood pressure are also measured.

Free Salsa Dance Classes: Everyone is invited to join in an eight-week salsa dance lesson class sponsored by CMWRA. This class is open to anyone and everyone and better yet, it is FREE. So, round up your friends and come out to the Fitness Express Center and learn some of the hottest salsa dance steps while getting a good workout at the same time. Classes will be held twice a week. For time and days, call the Fitness Express Center at 961-3164.

Towel Coins: For one dollar, you may purchase a towel coin. This coin may be traded for a towel when you arrive at the fitness center. When the towel is returned to the front counter, the coin will be returned.

Get Fit Program: This program is already underway, but it’s not too late to sign up. The Get Fit Program is a new incentive program that will help get you on the road to fitness. Not only will you get in shape, but you will also have a chance to win some really great prizes. For more information, please call the Fitness Express Center at 961-3164.

Gonzalez Liberty Program and CMWRA: The Gonzalez Liberty Program and CMWRA take you on the “Road to Ruidoso” one more time! Get your skis out of the closet, dust off your snow suits and get ready for another fun trip to Ski Apache in Ruidoso, New Mexico. The trip is scheduled for March 4-7, 2004. Take a look at the different packages available for you to choose from. There is one to suit every family:

Singles:	Couples:	Quads (Party of 4):	F a m i l y :
\$75/per person 2 Queen beds 4 people per room	\$150/person 1 King Bed 2 people per room	\$300/group 2 Queen Beds 4 people per room	\$56/person 2 Qn. Beds;1 sleeper sofa M i c r o w a v e , refrigerator in room; 6 people per room

Each package includes 4 days/3 nights hotel accommodations at the Comfort Inn of Ruidoso, transportation, and shuttle to and from the ski resort. This trip is open to all active duty, civilian and DoD employees, retirees, reservists and all their families. There is no age limit but seats are limited, so gather your friends and family and stop by the Gonzalez Liberty Center or the CMWRA office and sign up for this long-awaited trip. Departure time for the trip is 4 a.m. Thursday, March 4 and return time is at approximately 1 a.m. Monday, March 8. Registration deadline is Feb. 20, 2004. Registration will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday thru Saturday at the GLC or at the CMWRA office (Bldg. 249) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday. For more information, please call the Liberty office at 961-6405 or the CMWRA office at 961-3467.

Gonzalez Liberty Center (GLC):

Activities for February:
Feb. 12 - Valentine’s Bash: Come celebrate Valentine’s Day at the Gonzalez Liberty Center. There will be lots of FREE food, music, games and prizes.
Feb. 17 - Fooseball Tourney: Try out our new tables in a single or double player tourney. Prizes will be awarded to the 1st and 2nd place winners. Tournament starts at 6 p.m. until close.
Feb. 26 - Big Ben Games: The Liberty Center has a new addition of jumbo size games. Come and spend the evening with us and be entered into a drawing for the end of the night prizes.

For more information, call the Gonzalez Liberty Center at 961-6405.

Scholarships for military children application deadline Feb. 18

By Carrie Williams
DeCA



Didn’t find any “college cash” in your stocking? Don’t worry. There’s still time to apply for Scholarships for Military Children money. Applications for the \$1,500 scholarships are due at the nearest commissary by close of business Feb. 18. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with

qualified applicants.

The application can be downloaded through a link on the front page of www.commissaries.com or downloaded directly from www.militaryscholar.org and filled out by hand or on the computer. Copies of the application are also available at commissaries worldwide.

Students should put on their thinking caps and give it their best shot when it comes to writing the scholarship essay.

“In past years the essay has been a key factor in deciding among the many outstanding applicants,” said program liaison Edna Hoogewind, Defense Commissary Agency. This year’s topic is “What aspect of military life has had the greatest influence on you?”

Applications must be in the store by close of business on Feb. 18, and students who are not hand-delivering applications are advised to use a delivery method that supplies a return receipt.

After March 29, applicants may visitmilitaryscholar.org and click on the “Verification of Receipt” section. Scholarship managers will respond to “Verification of Receipt” e-mails until June 15.

Applicants should check all materials carefully for simple things, like making sure the application is signed or that it’s the 2004 application, not one from previous years.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card. The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2004, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Additional instructions can be found on the application or at www.militaryscholar.org .

Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization best known for building comfort homes near military medical facilities, administers the Scholarships for Military Children program. Fisher House Foundation uses the services of Scholarship Managers, a professional firm that has handled more than 400 programs, to screen applicants and award scholarships. Neither Fisher House nor DeCA are involved in the decision process.

The Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded nearly 1,500 scholarships and nearly \$2 million since the first awards in 2001. Scholarships are funded through the voluntary donations of the various manufacturers, brokers and suppliers that sell products in commissaries.

Semper Fi



Sgt. Maj. Thomas Glembin is frocked to his current rank by his wife, Kaeli Glembin, and Lt. Col. Richard McMonagle, Inspector-Instructor, 1st Bn 23rd Marines, Houston, Texas, as Sgt. Maj. Curtis Mason, Sergeant Major for 1st Bn 23rd Marines, Houston, Texas, looks on. Glembin recently transferred to 9th Comm Bn at Camp Pendleton, Calif., for duty as 9th Comm Bn Sergeant Major.

DRMO notice

Effective immediately, DRMO Corpus Christi turn-ins will be done by appointment only. Call DSN 861-2936/2084, comm (361) 961-2936/2084 or e-mail Bartlett.Varga@dla.mil to schedule an appointment. Turn-in times are from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday. If you have any questions, contact Barbara Roberts at DSN 471-3738 or Robert Franks at DSN 861-2936.

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most up to date information about a Sailor’s rating. This one-stop-shopping site for career information and planning will enable members to make informed decisions and give them more opportunities in the future.

The bottom line is that the success of your career is in your hands, and in order to succeed you must be proactive in your decision making to steer your course along the route you want. Take the time to get the facts and make conscious well thought out choices. Use your career counselors; ask for their advice or assistance. They are trained professionals who either have an answer or know where to get it. It’s your future!

From the Chaplain *continued from page 2*

About the same time he met Lila Bell Acheson, the daughter of a Presbyterian minister and before long the two fell in love. Lila believed in DeWitt’s dream; she wouldn’t let him give up and encouraged him to keep trying his wonderful idea for a magazine. Boosted by her faith in him, DeWitt started mailing circular letters to potential subscribers.

In October 1921, Lila married DeWitt. On returning from their honeymoon, they found a bundle of letters from interested subscribers. Together they worked on Volume1, Number 1, which was published in February 1922. DeWitt Wallace included Lila Bell Acheson as his co-founder, co-editor, and co-owner; over the years their magazine grew. Now printed in at least 18 languages, Reader’s Digest is the best selling magazine in the entire world.

DeWitt and Lila were more than husband and wife; they were true friends. They encouraged, supported and believed in each other. They worked side by side to make their dream come true, and in the process they respected each other. DeWitt once said, “I think Lila made the Digest possible.” I can imagine that Lila would probably say the same about DeWitt.

Yes, love believes all things. It sticks up for seemingly impossible dreams, cheering as those dreams struggle forward and applauding when they finally come true. God’s love for us remains available; it is up to you and me to believe and trust.

Healthwatch *continued from page 2*

tested for. Though not an emergency, this is a very serious disease. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms or any other visual problems, go see your physician or optometrist as soon as possible. Knowing about glaucoma and its symptoms may eventually help you save your eyesight or the eyesight of a loved one.

MyPay account setup procedures
From PSA Detachment Corpus Christi

Military personnel can access their pay account at www.dfas.mil. In the menu, select Leave & Earnings Statements, myPay (formerly EMSS). Next, enter your login ID and PIN. Your login ID is your SSN (without dashes). If you do not have a PIN number, you will need to request one by following the steps below:

- a. Make a photocopy of the front of your military ID card.
- b. On that page, type or print the following information:
 - (1) Full Name (as it appears on your ID)
 - (2) SSN
 - (3) Daytime phone number
 - (4) Signature
- c. You will need to fax or mail this information to DFAS:
 - Fax number: 216-522-5800
 - Address: DFAS-Cleveland/PMCAA
 - Attention: E/MSS
 - 1240 East 9th St
 - Cleveland, OH 44199

Once the information is received by DFAS, your new temporary PIN will be set to the last five digits of your SSN. Please wait at least two business days before attempting to use your new temporary PIN (allow additional time if you mailed your request). You will not receive any notification that your temporary PIN has been reset. Once you log in with the temporary PIN, the system will prompt you to customize your PIN. You are now set to access your pay account. **Only use the process above if you cannot remember your PIN and have been unable to use the on-line validation process shown below.**

If you do not know or have suspended your customized PIN, you may also re-activate your PIN on-line in myPay. You can establish a new customized PIN by entering any 4-8 numeric digit PIN three times. This will suspend your PIN record and screen instructions will tell you how to establish a new customized PIN on-line. You must enter the desired new PIN twice, and correctly respond to the identity validation questions.

If you suspended your customized PIN, enter your SSN and any 4-8 numeric digit PIN once. Follow the screen instructions to establish a new customized PIN by entering the desired new PIN twice and by correctly responding to the identity validation questions. You may also customize your PIN following the same procedures using the E/MSS IVR (phone) toll-free at 1-877-363-3677, or commercial at (478) 757-3119.

NEX drawing winner



Mr. Jeff Dougall, NEX Corpus Christi general manager, presents a \$325 gift certificate to Blanca Benbow (left) and her daughter Alanis Jackson, of Portland, Texas. Benbow won the raffle, which was sponsored by the NEX in conjunction with the Proctor & Gamble company, last month.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

HM-15 Awards

Cmdr. Paul Lluy, HM-15 commanding officer, awarded Navy Achievement Medals to the following individuals during a ceremony at the squadron:



AEC Kevin Doby



AM1 Kevin Newton

Congratulations new aviators!



Photo by Ensign Catherine Dow

The following individuals received their "wings," designating them aviators, during the first winging ceremony of 2004 at the Bay Club on Jan. 23. In alphabetical order: Ensign David Ashby, USN; Lt. j.g. Jeff Close, USCG; 2nd Lt. Ralph Coleman, USAF; 2nd Lt. James Dennis, USAF; 1st Lt. David Dodge, USMC; Ensign Gabriel Dunston, USN; 2nd Lt. Bret Echard, USAF; 1st Lt. Gregory Fletcher, USMC; Capt. James Hawkes, USAF; Ensign Steven Heggie, USN; Ensign Kerry Hicks, USN; 2nd Lt. Matthew Horner, USAF; Ensign Theodore Kubisiak, USN; 2nd Lt. David Lenhardt, USAF; 2nd Lt. Patrick McBride, USAF; Ensign Derek McHaney, USN; 2nd Lt. Nathan Perry, USAF; 2nd Lt. Michael Predergast, USAF; Ensign David Savery, USN; 2nd Lt. Kevin Seay, USAF; Lt. j.g. Jason Slabaugh, USN; 2nd Lt. Virginia Stutes, USAF; 2nd Lt. Andrew Walker, USAF; Ensign Nathan Winters, USN.

VT-35 Awards

Cmdr. William Mosk, VT-35 commanding officer, presented the following squadron individuals with their respective awards during a ceremony at hangar 55:

(Photos by Lt. Michael Martin)



2nd Lt. John Contreras, Air Force Commendation Medal



Lt. Chris Orlowski, Navy Achievement Medal



2nd Lt. Eric Wichman, Navy Achievement Medal

Commodore's List



Photo by Ensign Catherine Dow

Ensign Steven Heggie, flanked by Commodore Gabriel Salazar (left) and VT-35 Commanding Officer Cmdr. William Mosk (right), received a certificate for making Commodore's List with Distinction.

Bronze Star



Photo by Capt. Richelle Rodecker

Cmdr. Gerald Nyberg, VT-31 commanding officer, awarded the Bronze Star Medal to Maj. Chuck Taylor for his participation in the war against Iraq from January 2003 to July 2003.